

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 /070 W

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R 161445Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9331

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 5362

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: REMARKS OF ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS ON HIS DEPARTURE
FROM GREECE

REF: ATHENS 5098

1. ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS COMPLETED HIS TWO-WEEK VISIT
TO GREECE ON JULY 15 AND DEPARTED FOR THE UNITED STATES.
BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE HE MET BRIEFLY WITH THE PRESS AT THE
AIRPORT AND MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS OF INTEREST.

2. IAKOVOS SAID HE VISUALIZED A TOUGH BATTLE WOULD
TAKE PLACE IN CONGRESS OVER THE ISSUE OF RESUMING
MILITARY AID TO TURKEY. IN REPLY TO A FURTHER QUERY
ON THIS ISSUE, IAKOVOS IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE
NUMBER OF U.S. CONGRESSMEN IN FAVOR OF THE GREEK POSITION
OPPOSING THE RESUMPTION OF AID IS INCREASING. HE SAID HE
IS "OPTIMISTIC AND CONFIDENT THAT INJUSTICE WILL NOT
PREVAIL". HE REMARKED THAT WHILE HE HAD INTENDED TO
TAKE A FEW DAYS VACATION IN GREECE HE WAS RETURNING TO
THE U.S. IN ORDER TO FOLLOW THE DISCUSSIONS ON THIS

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SUBJECT IN CONGRESS.

3. ASKED ABOUT HIS IMPRESSIONS OF HIS STAY IN GREECE, THE ARCHBISHOP SAID THAT FROM HIS CONTACTS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND HIS THREE MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AND CONTACTS WITH OTHER MINISTERS, HE OBSERVED THAT THE NATION IS UNITED AND READY PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND TECHNICALLY TO FACE ANY EVENTUALITY. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE DOES NOT BELIEVE ANYTHING WILL HAPPEN. IAKOVOS CONTINUED THAT HE FOUND THE MORALE OF THE PEOPLE MUCH HIGHER THAN DURING PAST VISITS.

4. IAKOVOS CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS SAYING THE OVERALL IMPRESSION IN THE U.S. WAS THAT GREECE REGAINED THE POSITION IT DESERVED ON THE WORLD POLITICAL SCENE THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF ITS GOVERNMENT. THIS WAS NOT ONLY THANKS TO THE TRIPS OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE CLEAR POSITIONS GREECE HAD TAKEN THROUGH ITS PRIME MINISTER ON ALL INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

5. THE ARCHBISHOP WAS SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY THE UNDER SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, AMBASSADOR KUBISCH, OFFICIALS OF THE GREEK CHURCH AND OTHERS.
KUBISCH

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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